

over 18 years. They have a total disregard for what is going on out there for the rules and regulations and for the laws of the State of Nebraska and their explanation was, well we wanted to do it all at once. Well, when all at once was going be, we never would know and had this not come out in the newspaper, there still wouldn't be an application. So I think it's important that the farmers who have been damaged by this have the right to have their water for the next two years and it's responsible for us to do it. But we have, as a state, no legal obligation to do this and Central Irrigation is hanging out there on their irresponsible actions and the fact that we're taking them off the hook ought to be noted by every member of this body when we consider further legislation concerning the management of that district. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Morrissey, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair and members, I agree with most of what has been said today. The concern is the farmers. Again, I'd like to reemphasize the timing. It's needed and it's needed now because the farmers are going to the financial institutions now for their operating loans, very important, very important that we address this quickly. Because the bankers, quite honestly, are just a little nervous over what may or may not happen and they can't, just like our assessors in our property tax situation, they can't act on what we may or may not do in this body. These bankers are a little nervous about acting on what Mike Jess may or may not do. And as for who is at fault, that will come out possibly in other bills, debate on other legislation. Suffice it to say that I had a lot of questions of Central, didn't get them all satisfactorily answered, but by the end of this hearing I also had a lot of questions by the Department of Water Resources and they also weren't there. And I understand that both organizations, Central and the Department of Water Resources, had priority in and the water hearings at Bertrand. But you would have thought that at least they could have sent the second team to discuss the problem with the Legislature. I'm really disappointed on both counts there. So I would urge the support of Senator Schrock' bill. It is desperately needed by the farmers to be able to make their plans for the planting season to come. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator